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NEWS-LETTE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDEN

MALABAR, 2 JUNE.

The Collector and Magistrate of Malabar has notified that the Government of India has prohibited the importation of cannon, arms, and ammunition into the Madras Presidency, except at the following ports :—Madras, Bimlipatam, Coconada, Tuticorin, Calicut, Mangalore, and Negapatam. In the town of Madras, the Commissioner of Police is authorized to grant licenses to import them, but for all other ports licenses can be granted only by the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras. It has been also intimated that no passes shall in future be granted for the export of arms and ammunition by land or sea, except by the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, or by the officers expressly authorized by the Government of Madras or Bombay, and that under section 6 of Act VI. of 1873, no arms and ammunition shall be transhipped. The effect of the prohibition in the Malabar District will be that all orders for arms and ammunition to be landed at other ports than Calicut will be invalidated ; and this will place importers in a very disagreeable position. We will suppose that a large supply of sulphur is afloat for Cochin, and enquire whether the Government will bear the cost and expense of diverting the ship to Calicut on her arrival at Cochin? We are told that the destination of the ammunition (for sulphur comes under that head) must be altered to Calicut and that fresh licenses must be obtained from the Chief Secretary to the Government, in anticipation of its arrival; but how could this be done, except at great loss, and when transhipment is prohibited. The orders of the Government of India, the Collector of Malabar states, are peremptory, and all goods landed in violation thereof will be confiscated. The policy of the Government is, of course, the general disarmament of India ; but it is interesting to know the opinion which the natives of Malabar have formed in their mind as to the object of this sweeping restriction against the importation of arms and ammunition. They think that the measure is the result of the excitement from the recent Moplah disturbances district, the riots at Paulghaut, &c., and that it is a measure calculated to deprive the Moplahs of the means of doing much mischief. The Moplahs themselves entertain this idea, and it is amusing to note the ridiculous airs of some of them, when they talk of the apprehensions of Government, as they do.

Mr. Ballard, the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, has obtained three months' leave to proceed to England from the 5th July, and Major A. F. Bloomfield, Acting Commandant of the Travancore Nair Brigade, will act for him during his absence. It was generally believed that the Government of Madras would appoint Mr. McGregor to officiate as British Resident in these two States, and public opinion was against such appointment. The disappointment when the *Government Gazette* announced Major Bloomfield's name was then more pleasing than otherwise, except perhaps to Mr. McGregor. As the Collector and Magistrate of Malabar, Mr. McGregor has failed to give satisfaction, and he would be, in all likelihood, a bad bargain to the people of Travancore and Cochin.

There is a rumour of a memorial having been presented to Lord Hobart by the Moplahs of Malabar, praying for the removal of a certain Hindoo magistrate who inquired into the circumstances of a riot at Paulghaut and ordered the burning of the Mohurrum taboot at that place from the districts. This memorial complains also, I learn, of the conduct of the Paulghaut head assistant magistrate, Mr. H. T. Knox, who had some of the rioters re-arrested after they had served out their original terms of imprisonment awarded by the Hindoo magistrate, and punished again with rigorous imprisonment for terms. Mr. Knox's action was the appeal they presented the day after their first conviction ; but the question is, why was such action taken so late, that is, after the men had been released? The Moplahs of Malabar are evidently no friends of the Hindoo officials in the district. They await the decision of Lord Hobart's Government on their memorial with much anxiety.

The S. W. monsoon broke on the Malabar Coast ily ; it followed closely the cyclone on the other t of the 5th and 6th May, or rather it came with d it has continued up to this time to be heavy or ually severe. The whole of June has been a dark y month, and we have had constant, unceasing with heavy north-westerly squalls. The coast bleak and dismal, the seas lashing against it iously, and with the S. W. winds making it a dead -shore at times. Narrakel, the mill-pond of some iters and the sheltering anchorage to ships during d weather, has also felt the severity of the present nsoon. It has stirred up the mud that gives the horage the character of serenity, and a mud bank extent of 100 yards from the beach seaward appeared at Narrakel impeding shipping operations. roads of Narrakel, where vessels anchor, are perly smooth, but the strong north-westerly squalls sed a sea near the shore which makes landing king perilous and difficult.

tracts of waste land are still available in Native for coffee cultivation. Many applications have d for sites for the production of coffee on the pathy Hills. Travancore and Cochin are now d by planters to Coorg, Wynaad or Ceylon, States promise in time to become large coffee- countries at no distant time.

reported in whispers that the Maharajah is anxious that European capitalists e to his country and open out plumbago mineral being supposed to be abundant vancore will yield, it is believed, good plumbago. Will the attention of specula- cted to this matter ?

MADRAS, 27TH JUNE.

" benighted Presidency" has created an bout Madras in the other parts of India urable than just. This place is looked bay as a most undesirable place of resi- hopelessly backward in all that apper- n civilisation. But the simple truth is not going ahead at railway speed after the 19th century. This need not and that it has not its own slow but steady s. For example, it took Bombay about ave a representative Municipal Corpo- gh the electors did not know at once to elect, they were shown both in a Now Madras could not arrive at re- itutions in less than twenty years, but time had come everything election, and uld have the biggest bribe that orrow money to pay. And it is the hing. Madras arrives at each point a slow and sure course which, while way behind Bombay, ensures security of every step. And we are ghbours in all respects. The Madras- rate way, have had their opened supplied them, which Bombay has looked or has put off ending to enient opportunity. People's enough to make Mad a standing It is three miles lo y. and is one The bay, nd drives in the co a sufficient in- d annually, affo Park, and to e expenses of the very thought f curious anim of the Victoria the author. We have also host in de public bath, which is to have land. Now a public I wants of Bombay, but the nize upon doing too many int do not get so much really s, who seem hopelessly in- of more than one thing at a body has ever listened to the e upon the people who come in visit your Albert Museum imals that Bombay is making alive in the Victoria Gar- ave for years had a collection city in India, and by charg- ission, we secure a large in- , as you are aware, Madras ay just as soon as Bombay, al time in completing it, and ad of working it, I have will prove more successful in Bombay. There is ay should succeed and conveyances, for these in e in Bombay before the no police or municipal p exactly to the native liness. In the first that bullock Madras. For one to be any traffic done ed with goods or tiers- ded streets ; indeed, r-vehicles, which are one of the first pecu- Bombay. There are in front of the drawn by natives reformers after a time the grain and to the town I have not yet been able to find out. The hack carriages, then, which I was about to describe, are of two kinds only, known as the *bandy* and the *jutka*. The bandy exactly takes the place of the Bombay buggy, except that, being of the shape of a shigram, ladies who are not over-nice make use of them when they wish to spare their own horses. They are drawn by horses the best of which are of that type which in Bombay forms the margin of dispute between the inflexibility of the Commissioner of Police and the importunateness of the buggywalla. These bandies are not more than two-thirds the size of an ordinary shigram, and you are liable to knock the crown of your hat in on stepping into them ; and though the bandy is nominally seated for four, there is barely room for four pairs of knees between the seats. The driver sits on the top, as the front of the bandy is not commodious enough to hold a coach-box ; and he shouts " bye" instead of the uncivilized " pice" to make foot-passengers get out of the way. If you ever read the local columns of the Madras newspapers, you must have noticed that people don't get run over in the streets here. The explanation of this is that, instead of waiting till a man is under the horse's nose, as the drivers in Bombay, the Madras Jehus shout " bye" from a way off. This just gives the natives the time they to turn about and consider whether it will be better to go to one side or to be run over and be done with it. The Madras bandy-driver is a saucy and independent character. The regular fares for a bandy are one rupee and a half for half a day, and three rupees for a whole day, and unless the driver happens to be hard up you cannot get a drive, however short, for less than half a day's fare. But usually it is the bandywallah and not the hirer that dictates the terms. The independence of these men is extraordinary. They will keep their bandies idle all day at the stand rather than abate anything of the most extortionate demand, and they are so bound up with each other that one will not take a fare that has been refused by another. Their insolence, too, is of a piece with their independence. Three or four will call out to you from the stand, offering to drive you farther and faster than another. But when you have chosen the one with the least promising horse and have got into it, down steps Jehu from the top, asks where you wish to go, and begins to stipulate for some exhorbitant amount, always more than the rupee and a half, though you may not be going out for more than an hour. If you do not agree to this you must just get out again and then you can go to other bandy at that stand. So much for the conveyances which well-to-do people patronize. The "jutka," which takes the place of the common little hack-carriage in Bombay, is more like a palkee than anything else I know : only, it is about six inches high, and has the door at the back. These jutkas are drawn by ponies which never exceed twelve hands in height, but the greater number of which are superannuated specimens of those diminutive little things that carry about the *baba logue* in basket saddles. My deliberate opinion is that one half of all the jutka ponies in Madras should be destroyed in a single morning by an Act of the Governor in Council. It is bad enough to see a bullock starved, over-worked, and tortured to make it go ; but to see an animal of the noble and sensitive nature of the horse suffering the same treatment at the hands of the most degraded class of natives is what only Madras patience could stand. How Europeans have been supreme here over fifty years and never moved a finger in behalf of the poor jutka pony is more than I care or wish to explain. The jutka itself is a two-wheeled conveyance, and to prevent any of the weight falling on the pony and crushing it to the ground, the machine is adjusted with a decided inclination backwards, which is increased when a fat Hindoo is working his way in at the narrow door. On these occasions it is often as much as the little pony can do to prevent being lifted clean off its feet by the overbalancing of the Altogether this is one of the most extraordinary compromises between barbarism and civilization that were ever contrived. Yet it is common to see four persons so tightly stuffed into a jutka, head or feet uppermost, that one wonders how the door ever closed upon the last one. And if either lock or hinge of the door gave way all the occupants would necessarily tumble out upon the road, owing to the backward slope at which the vehicle is placed.

There is much general satisfaction and much pleasure among the gentleman's particular friends at the election in London as Member of the Royal Asiatic Society, of Mr. Higginbotham, of the firm of Higginbotham and Co., long-established publishers in Madras. This firm has perfectly dazzled Madras by the rapidity with which it has issued book after book to the public, and its enterprize has even attracted notice in the other presidencies. Especially a valuable series of law books, which the Advocate General and other members of the local bar have found or m Higginbotham and Co. as its publishers. The junior partner, who has just been made an M.R.A.S., is author as well as publisher of several works. His last book, " Men whom India has Known," is an important compilation, and has been favourably reviewed by several of the Indian journals.

The hot season, which is now going on, is more like that of the Deccan than one would at a sea-coast town. The heat, though not so bad (I am told) as it was a month or six weeks ago, is very oppressive, and produces that curious sensation which is frequently described in the mofussil as " feeling the head like to split." Usually just now a hot land wind blows all day, driving clouds of the red dust before it, but twice within the last fortnight we have had the sea breeze for a few hours, and afterwards a shower of rain. The heat of the weather is driving a number of the parish dogs mad in the town. Last week two persons were bitten by a mad dog, and will likely die in the hospital a few weeks hence. There is a staff of dog-killers employed by the Municipality, and it would be well if they showed a little more activity about their work at this time.

Dave Carson goes to Bangalore, giving his last performance to-night. He has not had such a successful run as his talents led him to expect, for many of the people are away at the hills. The papers have also been announcing " Professor Bushel has arrived" for some time past, but I have heard nothing yet of his commencing his entertainments. As they are more scientific, and for that reason less popular, than Mr. Carson's " burra tumashas," I fear that these entertainments will not attract very large audiences till Lord Hobart and his followers returned to Madras.

The magistrates have been sending so many Eurasian loafers to the workhouse that the Commissioner of Police has notified to them that Eurasians are by a special clause exempted from the provisions of the Vagrancy Act. This has created a good deal of discontent among the class objected to, for it seems that even Eurasian loafers have a dignity which they will assert and which they will claim.

BOMBAY.

" The Indian Travellers' Guide" for July, containing the latest alterations in the time-tables of the different Indian railways, can be had at this office and at the several agencies.

Negligent Driving.—Yesterday at the Girgaum Police Court one Mahadoo Janaraum, was sentenced by Mr. Dossabhoy Framjee to pay a fine of Rs. 20 for rash and negligent driving on Monday last.

Theft.—A Parsee named Nowrojee Jehangier, residing at Breach Candy, reported to the police that on Monday afternoon his box was forced open, and Rs. 72 in cash and currency notes extracted. The police are investigating the matter.

Yesterday before Mr. C. P. Cooper, Senior Magistrate, at the Fort Police Court, Michael Ahern, a seaman, was charged with neglecting to join the steam-ship Delhi, to which he had been articled. The defendant pleaded guilty, and his Worship sentenced him to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment.

Suicide.—Yesterday afternoon a Parsee female, named Heerabaee, the wife of Byramjee Ardasir, residing in a house opposite the Framjee Cowasjee tank, committed suicide by hanging herself by a rope tied to a beam in her room. She had closed the door of the room from inside, and it had to be broken open.

Drunk and Disorderly.—One Francis Brier was yesterday charged before Mr. Dossabhoy Framjee, at the Girgaum Police Court, with being drunk and disorderly on the previous night. His Worship sentenced the defendant to a fine of Rs. 10, or in default to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment.

Concert.—The following programme will be performed in the Town Hall this afternoon :—

Organ	...Overture to Zampa	Herold.
Baritone Solo	...The Vagabond	Molloy.
Soprano	,, ...My own, my own, my guiding star	Macfarren.
Flute	,, ...Selections from " Lucrezia Borgia"	Donizetti.
Organ	,, ...Angels, ever bright and fair	Handel.
Soprano	,, ...Take this cup of sparkling wine	Wallace.
Tenor	,, ...I heard a voice	Pinsuti.
Organ	,, ...March (" Eli")	Costa.
Glee	...The Gipsies' Tent	Cooke.

Subornation of Perjury.—The case in which Hormusjee Dossabhoy, who stands charged with the above offence, was yesterday committed by Mr. Nana Morojee at the Fort Police Court to take his trial at the next Criminal Sessions. Upon an application made by Mr. Gundabhoy to admit the prisoner to bail, his Worship replied that he would admit him, the prisoner to furnish security to the extent of Rs. 6,000, half of which amount was to be deposited in cash. Mr. Gundabhoy represented to the Court his client's inability to procure so large an amount at a moment's notice, and begg that his Worship would limit the amount of secu to Rs. 3,000 ; but the application was refused.

Criminal Trespass and Assault.—Yesterday Mr. Nana Morojee, at the Fort Police Court, on tomjee Merwanjee charged one Edeljee Cursetjee and another with criminal trespass, and with using language abusive and insulting towards him. Mr. Shantaram Narayen, pleader, who appeared for the complainant, stated that the defendants were under the impression that his client was indebted to them a considerable sum of money, and in consequence of this impression (which the complainant declared to be quite erroneous), the defendants never failed to avail themselves of opportunities to molest his client, who, being apprehensive that this system of persecution might assume a more dangerous form, had been constrained to seek the protection of the Court. It appeared in evidence that the defendants had trespassed on complainant's premises on Saturday last, demanding an immediate settlement of this imaginary claim, taking hold of his clothes, and using language calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. After the examination of the second witness his Worship remarked to Mr. Macfarlane, who represented the defendants, that he considered the charge of assault established, and unless Mr. Macfarlane was in a position to adduce rebutting evidence he would bind the defendants over to observe the peace towards complainant. After some little argument, however, his Worship consented merely to warn and discharge the defendants, which was accordingly done.

THE CONNON MEMORIAL FUND.

The following letter has been addressed to the Secretaries to this fund :—

Gentlemen,—On behalf of myself, the punchayet, and dealers of the Arthur Crawford Markets, I have the honour to forward herewith the sum of (Rs. 165) one hundred and sixty-five rupees, being the first instalment of a collection which the above market dealers started towards the John Connon Memorial Fund. It may not be generally known that the late Senior Magistrate of Bombay was a very great favourite with all the market dealers of Bombay, particularly those of the Arthur Crawford Markets, where lately he was almost a daily visitor.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

P. C. Higgins,
Superintendent of Markets.

Bombay, 30th June.

A QUESTION OF JURISDICTION.

At the Small Causes Court, on Friday last, the case of Dewjee Dossa v. Abdool Latiff Cummoo was heard before the acting First Judge. The plaintiff sought to recover from the defendant the sum of Rs. 1,000, the excess of Rs. 400 having been abandoned in order to bring it within the money jurisdiction of that Court, being the balance of account for muccadumage, commission, &c. Mr. Khunderow Morojee appeared on behalf of the plaintiff, and Mr. Nusserwanjee, Vakil, High Court, for the defendant.

On behalf of the defendant, it was contended that this Court had no jurisdiction, inasmuch as the plaintiff being a mere factor or agent of the defendant, had no right to sell off his goods which were left in his charge. The 1st item in the plaintiff's particulars of demand was an item of Rs. 2,676, being the sale proceeds of 86 dubbers of ghee deposited with the plaintiff. The plaintiff had advanced several sums of money, and in order to reimburse himself, he sold off by public auction those dubbers and credited the defendant with the sale proceeds. Mr. Nusserwanjee's contention was that that sum was neither a part payment on account nor an admitted set-off, and therefore plaintiff could not bring his claim within the jurisdiction by offering to give credit for any sum he might choose to allow. In support of his argument, he cited the case of Avtola v. Rhodes, reported in the 22nd vol. of the Law Journal, Exch. 106, which he said was the ruling authority on the subject. He also referred the Court to the case of Thomas Short v. Abdool Rahman, reported in the 6th vol. of the Bombay High Court Reports, 53.

Mr. Khunderao argued that these goods had been pledged with his client to secure advances of monies which his client had from time to time made, and consequently that he had perfect authority to sell them and recoup himself.

This fact being disputed by the defendant's pleader, evidence was mainly directed to the original contract between the parties. The Court, upon the facts deposed to by the plaintiff and his witnesses, and the documentary evidence before it, was of opinion that the plaintiff had no power to sell the 86 dubbers of ghee. The Court directed that the case be struck off for want of jurisdiction.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE RIOTER NABOOKHAN.

The *Rast Goftar* says—Pestonjee, the victim of Naboo Khan's outrage, has completely recovered ; the time for the prosecution of the rioter has passed by ; and the question naturally arises, " What has become of the charges, serious as they were, against Naboo-Khan ?" The charge against him was not simply that of rioting, but he was accused of plundering the shop of Pestonjee and of attempted murder. In fact he has had a escape from being tried for murder ; for there was no hope of Pestonjee's recovery, and even his dying declaration had been taken down by a magistrate. And there was every probability that the charge of murder would have been brought home to him, for Pestonjee had identified him at the hospital as his assailant. We have heard that the case has been hushed up. It is said that, had the case proceeded, there were apprehensions of its resulting in serious disclosures—disclosures concerning some person, or persons in authority ; concerning some rioters ; and concerning some instig rioters. It is said that Nabookhan of making a clean breast held out a thr allowed to proceed against of it if the case was those who were apprehen him ; and that therefore, forth their best efforts, ive of an exposure, put and even ed their utmost influence, Report curred xpense to hush up the case. even goes to the length of saying that the Parsee liquor-seller, whom Nabookhan nearly killed, has been bought over and has agreed to withdraw from the prosecution. Again, it is said that the liquor-seller did not voluntarily come to such an ignominious resolution, but that he could not withstand the pressure brought to bear upon him by very influential persons, who had been frightened by Nabookhan's threat. We have given expression to these reports simply in the hope of eliciting the truth. The delay that has transpired in prosecuting the accused is suspicious ; and it is not strange that it should give rise to ugly rumours. If these rumours are unfounded, there is all the greater necessity for an explanation from those concerned. The public watch with anxiety the final result of the prosecution of Naboo. Who is to afford the required explanation ? We think the Public Prosecutor should give it, for he took over the conduct of the case out of the hands of solicitor. More than the Public Prosecutor the Police Commissioner may be expected to give an explanation, because the police arrested the accused, and it is the duty of the police to prosecute him to conviction. At the same time an explanation may be looked for from Pestonjee or his friends. We are at a loss to conceive how a prosecution once commenced, could be withdrawn without the magistrate's permission. If the case is hushed up in the manner indicated, it would furnish a flagrant illustration of the ends of justice being subordinated to the triumph of vice. It is a sin to commit an offence; but how much greater is the sin of him who uses his influence and his position to hush up crime or screen the criminal ? The charge against the offender having once been publicly laid, no one has a right to condone it ; and those who do so, notwithstanding, render themselves liable to be indicted and punished for screening a criminal.

THIRD CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

At the Criminal Sessions of the High Court yesterday, the following case was tried before Sir Charles Sargent and a Special Jury :—

GIVING FALSE EVIDENCE.

Robert Ross, Pestonjee Nusserwanjee, and Rustomjee Maneckjee were charged, the first two with having on the 3rd April last given false evidence in a judicial proceeding, and the third with having fabricated a false document and abetted the giving of false evidence. The first two prisoners pleaded guilty, and the third not guilty.

His Lordship then sentenced the first two prisoners to two years' rigorous imprisonment, and the third prisoner was placed on his trial.

Before the commencement of the trial Mr. Ferguson said he appeared with Mr. Branson for the defence, and he had seen from the daily papers that morning that an application had been made to have the case tried by a special jury. He submitted that there was nothing in this case to require the attendance of a special jury ; there was also a special reason for not having a special jury, namely, that there had been 48 special jurymen in the riot cases out of which this case arose.

His Lordship said that only 12 special jurymen could have had anything to do with the case, and as this a case which had been ial jury, he considered th cial jury. hen empannelled. for the prosecution. ry, Mr. Farran said the charge investigate had out of the re Mr. Justice M trial that held be last. In that trial one Nusserwanjee were accused of having itted th February. The defence put forward on b wanjee had been that on that day, when place, he was not in Bombay but at other side of the harbour. In support of th two witnesses had been called ; one man of th Robert Ross, who said he was a contractor been working at Dhurrumter, and that Nusse had been working under him from the early par bruary till the 15th, thus covering the 15th, wh riot had taken place. The other witness was Pestonjee Nusserwanjee, and had given evide a similar nature. Now, at the time Ro said he was at Dhurrumter, he had in point been coming from Aden in a steam-ship cal Koina, so that it was utterly impossible he could been at Dharrumter at the time he said he was, was equally impossible that the prisoner could have there working for him. The other witness had in p of fact been working under Scott, McClelland and C at Toolsee. So, if these facts were proved, the jury coul have no doubt that both Ross and Nusserwanjee ha given false evidence. But these men, had moreover, pleaded guilty. It would be pretty evident to the minds of the jury that Ross would not have come forward and given this evidence unless instigated by some one. He himself had said that the person who instigated him was the prisoner at the bar, and in this he was corroborated by Pestonjee Nusserwanjee. If the jury believed these two men they could have no doubt that the prisoner at the bar had been guilty of instigating them. He thought the jury would be of opinion that it was extremely probable that these men were speaking the truth, because they must have been instigated by some one, and there was no reason for their fixing on the prisoner at the bar as that instigator. However, there was no doubt that these men had been accomplices with the prisoner, and in such cases it was usually thought unnecessary for the prosecution to corroborate their testimony by that of some independent person. He would tell them how the law stood at present on that point. It was laid down in the Evidence Act that an accomplice should be a competent witness against an accused person. His Lordship in summing up would explain under what circumstances an accomplice was to be believed, and under what circumstances he was not to be believed, and no doubt the jury would pay attention to whatever his Lordship's ruling on that point might be. But the prosecution were in a position to bring before the jury other witnesses who would connect the prisoner at the bar with these two men—witnesses who would depose to having carried messages from the prisoner to Ross and Nusserwanjee—men who were a sort of go between in the transactions. He would further call the witness who served the summons upon Ross and Nusserwanjee, and this witness, he thought, the jury would consider a man whose evidence was really trustworthy. Upon the occasion when the summonses were served these men had been pointed out by the prisoner at the bar. This strongly corroborated the testimony which he was instructed these men would give. Now it had so happened that at the trial which took place on the 3rd of April the jury had been unable to come to a verdict, and the case stood over for some time. It was in this interval, and that these men might give evidence in the second trial, that the prisoner at the bar had pointed them out. After some time, however, these men seemed to be doubtful if the remuneration they were to receive at the second trial was not too small, and accordingly they had taken the summonses and posted them to the office of Dr. Dallas with a letter. They stated that in that letter they had made certain statements relative to the third prisoner. A man of the name of Dinshaw, a clerk in Dr. Dallas's office, seemed to have opened the packet, and he said that there was no letter such as that which Ross deposed he had put in the envelope. It would be for the jury to consider whether this was a material contradiction on the part of the prosecution. These were the short facts of the case. He should mention also that Ross and Nusserwanjee were not to give their evidence for nothing. They had been paid several small sums on account of expenses, and the sum Ross was to receive was Rs 5 a day while the trial lasted and Rs 50 afterwards. In conclusion, he had only to say that whatever opinion the gentlemen sitting on the jury might have formed in connection with the trial, the putting forward of false witnesses to say that this man was not in Bombay on the 15th of February, was an act which would be reprobated by every creed and class of men—Parsees, Europeans, and Mahomedans.

Evidence was then gone into to prove the trial of the 3rd of April, and the statements made by the prisoner on that occasion.

Henriko Profumo was then called and said—I am commander of the steam-ship Koina. That vessel left Aden on the 21st of February, bound for Bombay. She arrived in Bombay on the 9th of March. That ship among other passengers brought Robert Ross. That is the man (points him out). This is the passage ticket granted him. A vessel takes 10 or 12 days to go from Bombay to Aden.

Robert Ross was next called, and in examination by Mr. Farran, repeated the lengthy statement made by him in the Police Court, to the effect that he and Nusserwanjee had been bribed to give false evidence by the third prisoner.

Two or three more witnesses were examined, the which the Court adjourned until this morning, when the case for the prosecution will be continued. The jury were allowed to separate with the usual caution.

A SIMILAR CASE.

Antone DaCruz was convicted on his own confession of a similar offence as the above, and was sentenced to receive two years' rigorous imprisonment.

HIGH COURT DECREES.

Yesterday at the High Court, the following short causes were heard before Mr. Justice Pinhey :—

MR CHARLES FORBES AND CO. V. PREMJEE RUNCHORDAS.

Mr. Constable, instructed by Messrs. Remington, Hore and Langley, appeared for the plaintiffs. There was no appearance for the defendant. The action was brought to recover Rs. 1,453 under the Act for summary suits. His Lordship gave a decree for plaintiffs for Rs. 1,438 with interest at 9 per cent. from 1st April 1874 on Rs. 1,221, and at the same rate on Rs. 218 from 7th May 1874, until judgment, costs Rs. 300, and interest on the judgment at 6 per cent. until payment.

NUSSE CHORD MOOLCHUND AND ANOTHER.

Mr. Hart, instructed by Messrs. Macfarlane and Shapsey, appeared for the plaintiff. The second defendant appeared in person. The defendant had filed a written statement and asked for time to prepare his proofs. The plaintiff consented as his own witnesses were not in Bombay ; and his Lordship adjourned the case for a fortnight, costs to be costs in the cause ; the plaintiff undertaking to give notice of the postponement to the first defendant.

KIRPARAM GUNGARAM AND ANOTHER V. NURSINGDAS JESRAZ AND OTHERS.

Mr. Starling, instructed by Messrs. Manisty, Fletcher and Smith, appeared for the plaintiffs. The first and second defendant appeared in person. The action was brought to recover Rs. 4,159, the balance of an account for goods and monies supplied by the plaintiffs to defendants. The Court gave a decree for plaintiffs for Rs. 4,159 with interest at 9 per cent per annum from 28th March 1874 till judgment, costs, and interest on the judgment at 6 per cent until payment.

DAPOOJEE VICCAJEE.

Mr. Telang, instructed by Messrs. Shapurjee and Thakurdas, appeared for the plaintiff. There was no appearance for the defendant, who was formerly Assistant Municipal Commissioner at Bombay, and is a Subordinate Judge at Sattara, where service had been effected upon him. The suit was brought to recover Rs. 1,089 due on a promissory note dated 18th August 1871. The court gave a decree for plaintiff for Rs. 1,089 with interest at 9 per cent per annum from the 18th August 1871 until judgment, costs, and interest on the judgment at 6 per cent until payment.

The following short causes were disposed of by Mr. Justice Bayley yesterday :—

KOWAS KHAN VS. GHOWAN NANSER AND OTHERS.

This was a suit arising out of the great Ahmedabad conspiracy case, in which the accused were each sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment. The prosecutor in that case now filed this suit, seeking pecuniary compensation for the hurts he alleged he sustained then from the accused.

Mr. Purcell, on behalf of the defendant Abdool Rahmon—now undergoing sentence—applied to have his client and a witness of his, also a convict, brought up in their ordinary clothes and not in the prison-garb, when the case came on for hearing. Applications of this kind had been made before and granted, as in the cases of Pestonjee Dinshaw and another. The Sheriff had declined granting the permission unless sanctioned by the Court.

His Lordship said he had no objection.

EBRAHIM BIN BUJUS VS. ABDOOL RAHIMON.

Mr. Inverarity appeared for the defendant and applied to have the case removed into the long-cause list, on the ground that it was necessary to issue a commission for the examination of two material witnesses, one at Lingah and the other at Bunder Abbas, in the Persian Gulf. The plaint sought to recover Rs. 3,28 for money alleged to have been advanced by plaintiff—not in Bombay but at Bunder Abbas—and this was attempt on his part to snatch a decree in defendant's absence. The plaintiff filed a suit against the latter December 1873, in which no mention of this claim made, and immediately on defendant going on his visit to the Gulf for the purpose of trade, as well knew, he filed the present suit in His allegation was that defendant a loan and that the sum of R ly been paid by his agent defendant's at Lingah affidavit stated that

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d agent for the money, m duly over. Defendant ed these statements in toto ssion to issue to examine both agent.
Lordship directed the suit d a commission to issue.

VS. C. W. FOSBURY.

on an acceptance of exchange dated the 24th March 18 Rs. 4,702. Service duly proved. The the claim this, and was believ- other debts decree was passed against interest and all costs.

ROY DARONJEE VS. MANOCKJEE SORABJEE ASHBURNER.

sha Mehta, on behalf of the plaintiff, stated it was a suit to recover Rs. 3,000, being money lent to defendant in December 1873 on a promissory note executed in respect thereof. Interest up to February had been paid and nothing on account of principal ever received. On proving the claim, a decree was given in plaintiff's favour for Rs. 3,000 with interest at 12 per cent., costs and further interest.

J. G. DUARTE VS. [illegible] DE SILVA.

Mr. Lang for the defendant moved to have the case transferred to the long-cause list. He said the plaintiff sought to establish a lien on certain houses at Oombercurry. The plaintiff was defendant's brother-in-law, and in 1876, when the latter's creditors were pressing him, he deposited the title-deeds of two houses with the former for safe custody. He subsequently passed through the Insolvent Act, and the plaintiff now sought to take advantage of that deposit. [illegible] written statement denied that the plaintiff had any lien on the title-deeds.

Mr. Hart, on the plaintiff's behalf, relied on the admission made in the defendant's schedule to the effect that these houses had been given to his sister as her dowry. He had also admitted execution of the deed for the payment of her dowry to the extent of Rs. 9,000, and the title-deeds, Mr. Hart alleged, were deposited as security.

His Lordship decided that the case should be transferred as applied for.

E. D. SASSOON VS. MANECKBHAI WIDOW.

Mr. Macpherson appeared for the plaintiff and said it was a suit which arose out of the suit of Cooverbhai vs. Maneckbhai and called attention to the order annexed to the plant dated 26th January last by which the defendant Maneckbhai was to sell through Messrs. [illegible] & Co., auctioneers, a certain bungalow on Malabar Hill, and after deducting all costs, [illegible] pay to Mr. E. D. Sassoon the sum of Rs. 12,783 with interest out of the proceeds, being the moiety of the valuation of the bungalow fixed by the surveyors. She had taken no steps whatever to carry that order into effect, and remained in possession in full enjoyment of the rents, leaving the plaintiff out in the cold without his half share.

Mr. Starling for the defendant moved to have the case transferred to the long-cause list. He contended it was brought unnecessarily and said that his client was quite willing to sell and pay off Mr. Sassoon, but the highest bid that had yet been made amounted only to Rs. 12,000, which was not even as much as the plaintiff's share. The valuation had been fixed at Rs. 25,000, and to sell at such a fall would be to the entire destruction of the estate. He also said the defendants had a counter-claim for breach of contract against the plaintiff in not adhering to an offer he had made to purchase the other half of the estate for Rs. 12,000, and the land Re. 1 per square yard.

His Lordship thought the suit had better go into the long causes; defendant in the meantime filing her cross suit.

GOVINDRAM DWARKADASS VS. RUGHOONATHDASS GOCULSHAW AND ANOTHER.

The plaintiff's moonim appeared in person and proved the claim. It was a suit on an account dated 2nd November 1872, and when a balance of Rs. 9 350 was found to be then due. Defendants were brothers trading in partnership at Khundwa, and plaintiff acted as agent here for the sale of their goods, &c. A decree was given for Rs. 9,350 with full interest and cost.

THE BENGAL FAMINE.

We make the following extracts from the twentieth Special Narrative of the drought in Bengal, extending from the 12th to the 20th June 1874:—

1. Weather and Rainfall.—The reports continue to be very satisfactory. Rain continues to fall seasonably in almost all districts; only in Hooghly, Howrah, and part of Jessore, is more rain said to be wanted.

2. State of Crops.—The prospects of the coming crops could hardly be better. In almost every district, with very few exceptions, a more than average crop is expected, and in every district there has now been ample rain for sowings.

3. Prices.—Prices still remain fairly steady, and the tendency to fall, remarked on in last narrative, still continues in Behar and the more distressed districts of north-eastern Bengal. In the western districts there has been a fall in Burdwan and Hooghly, and a rise in Beerbhoom, Midnapore, and Howrah. In the central districts there has been a rise in Jessore and Maldah, and a slightly upward tendency is shown in Moorshedabad. There has been a fall in Rungpore, Bogra and Pubna. Throughout the eastern districts prices are generally somewhat higher. They have risen considerably in Dacca and Fureedpore, and slightly in Sylhet and Chittagong. The other districts show no change except Noakholly, where prices have fallen to the level at which they stood the fortnight before last. In Behar rice and barley have fallen in Tirhoot, and barley (an important article of food in Behar) has fallen in Patna, Shahabad, and Chumparun; only in Monghyr have prices risen. In Chota Nagpore there is no change to record except in Hazareebagh, where prices are somewhat lower. In Pooree there has been a considerable rise, from 27.9 to 24.10 for common rice.

4. Private trade to Behar.—The usual note on food-grains will be found in appendix A. Though the total upward traffic shows a decrease from the figures given last fortnight, yet the decrease is solely in the Government grain sent up, and there is really a slight increase of 56 tons in the upward private trade, and a considerable increase of 2,770 tons in the downward traffic.

5. North Tirhoot.—The reports continue satisfactory. Sowing is being carried on in every part of the district, and seed-grain, about which there were some fears, has turned out to be generally plentiful; so much so, that it was selling in Mudhoobunnee at Rs. 2 the maund. The general health of the population is exceedingly good, and their condition very much improved. The Seetamurhee and Poopree sub-divisions have been inspected during the fortnight by Drs. MacDonell and Coates. The former found in Poopree from 90 to 82 per cent. of the people on relief works up to the normal condition, which is exceedingly satisfactory, as the standard adopted by Dr. MacDonell, as remarked in the last narrative, is a high one. Dr. Coates found the people in Seetamurhee generally in very good condition, even in the most remote villages.

6. Rice (except Government rice) continues very scarce in the bazaars, but importations of the coarser grains are reported to be increasing. Advances are now being given largely to the ryots for the support of themselves and their dependent labourers during the coming cultivating season.

7. South Tirhoot.—The prospects of the coming crop are excellent, and sowings are going on extensively; but though importations by private persons have increased, yet stocks still continue to be abnormally low, and sales of Government rice are necessarily continued.

8. Chumparun.—Indigo prospects are said to have improved owing to the recent rain, and there is consequently an increased demand for labourers for weeding the fields. The prospects of the other crops are excellent, and the condition of the people improved. In Ramnugger Dr. Coates, in his inspection tour, found a large number of the people anæmic and out of condition; but as the place is noted for its unhealthiness, it is probable that a similar inspection in a year of the greatest plenty would produce similar results. More seed-grain has been forthcoming than was at one time thought likely to exist in the district.

9. Sarun.—In this district the cheena crops has turned out particularly well, especially in Bussuntpore and Mushrukh, the worst tracts in the district. Indigo prospects are greatly improved, and the bhadoi crop promises to be remarkably good. Some labourers have been at last induced to engage to go to the Soane Canal, and it is hoped that others will follow.

10. South Behar.—The prospects of these three districts continue to be very good. [illegible] people, as many refrained from sowing when the first rain fell owing to the idea that the influence of the Mirgeshra Nakshatter,* through which the moon, according to Hindoo astronomers, was then passing, was unpropitious. Some, however, disregarded the omen and sowed, though at least a large minority hesitated. Fortunately [illegible] latter the rain continued, and they did not lose the opportunity of getting their crop into the ground. Private trade in Patna continues to be very active; the imports for the fortnight being 3 88,312 maunds, against 3,62,246 imported in that preceding it.

11. Bhagulpore Division.—The condition of the people continues good, and there is but little distress anywhere except in Bahadoorgunge in Purneah, and parts of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The prospects of the coming crops are excellent. The Collector of Bhagulpore says that "the bhadoi is simply magnificent;" and the Collector of Monghyr goes so far as to state that all fear of distress will be over at the end of July, as soon as the jenera (millet) crop ripens. If the rains continue the harvest throughout the division will probably be above the average.

12. Rajshahye Division.—In this division there has been a very great and general improvement, except in Rajshahye and parts of Pubna, where somewhat severe distress has been felt. The distress in the former district arose chiefly from a deficient supply of food-grains owing to the falling off in importations, and sanction has been given for the sale of Government rice in those places where the deficiency was serious. The prospects for the coming season could not be better.

13. Cooch Behar and Julpigoree.—The report of the Deputy Commissioner shows that no further distress is apprehended in this district, and that with some few exceptions the people are now well off and looking forward to reaping a more than average crop.

14. Burdwan Division.—There is little or no change to report in the condition of the people, and the prospects are good though not so unusually good as in other parts of the country. Cholera is decreasing.

15. Nuddea.—There is no change in this district.

16. Chota Nagpore.—The reports still continue to show an improvement in the state of the people, and distress may now be said to be almost entirely confined to parts of Maunbhoom and Hazareebagh; the promise of the crops is so good that hopes are entertained of an early return to a normal state of prosperity.

17. Transport of Grain.—With the exception of small quantities of grain going to the districts of the Burdwan division and of the extra lakh of maunds ordered to be sent for South Tirhoot, the transport of Government grain by the railway has almost entirely ceased. The State Railway to Durbhunga having been only laid down as a fair weather line, cannot continue to carry grain during the rains, and hence the three lakhs still remaining to complete the Mudhoobunnee allotment will have to go by water. Arrangements are being made for the purpose. [illegible] Metcalfe reports from Durbhunga that he anticipates [illegible] difficulty in making adequate transport arrangements [illegible] the movement of grain from the larger to the [illegible] during the rains, as all the golahs are situated [illegible] banks of rivers or connected with riverside stations [illegible] involving no great length of land carriage. [illegible]—The number of labourers on relief [illegible] latest returns available, as compared [illegible] into which the numbers given in the last fortnightly narrative, follows:—

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Division	1,231,496	1,368,087
embankment	45,247	27,574
al	34,850	31 945
e division	169,617	88,448
division	194,131	155,466
Northern Bengal Railway ...	22,129	22,622
Burdwan and Chota Nagpore.	95,950	72,849
Cooch Behar	3,518	3,741
Total... ...	1,737,768	1,770,732

These returns show an increase on those given in previous returns of 32,964; but an analysis of the numbers employed in each district shows that the increase has been chiefly in North Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun districts. The Collector of Sarun remarks that we must not expect the numbers on relief works to fall off largely immediately after a fall of rain sufficient for sowing, as "beyond the ploughing and sowing which are done by the ryots themselves and their families, there can be no general demand for field-labour till the transplanting of the dhan and the weeding operations are taken in hand." In this district it is proposed to close relief works from the 1st July, when the demand for agricultural labour becomes brisk, and to reduce the rate of wages where works are maintained to the lowest subsistence allowance. In Chumparun the numbers have not increased largely anywhere, except in the Gobindgunge sub-division, where they have more than doubled; but in the Ramnuggar sub-division, where the numbers have been hitherto very large and the distress greatest, there has been a very large decrease from 31,573 to 11,919.

In South Tirhoot there has been a decrease, and also in Shahabad and on the Gunduk embankment and Soane works; but in Patna and Gya there has been a slight increase in the numbers of labourers, though in the former district the numbers had fallen at the close of the fortnight.

In the Bhagulpore division there has been a decrease in the numbers on the whole, though the Bhagulpore district and the Sonthal Pergunnahs show a slight increase. In the Rajshahye division all the districts show a decrease except Moorshedabad and Rajshahye. In the former district the increase is small, and in the latter, though apparently large, it is really insignificant, as the persons engaged in light labour, who were last fortnight entered as receiving charitable relief, have now been entered as labourers according to the practice followed in other districts.

In the Burdwan division the returns are not complete, but there has been a slight decrease in Hooghly and a slight increase in Bankoora and Beerbhom; while in the Burdwan district the increase is more considerable. In Chota Nagpore there has been a slight increase in Manbhoom, and no satisfactory returns have been received from Palamow and Hazareebagh; but the figures given probably rather overstate the numbers on relief works. The Commissioner remarks that the numbers are at least half what they were in the previous fortnight, and the last crop-report says that the relief works in Palamow are almost deserted.

19. It is frequently remarked in the district narratives that the labourers work part of the day in their fields and part on the relief works, and consequently the numbers of men on these works must not be considered as so many men taken from the ordinary number of agricultural labourers. The universal report as to the excellence of the crops and the breadth of land sown prove that nowhere have relief works prevented the carrying on of the ordinary agricultural operations of the season.

20. The following shows the numbers employed with particulars of those employed on piece-work and daily wages:—Labourers under Public Works Department 760,084; labourers under circle officers 1,010,648; total labourers 1,770,732; task or piece work 951,417; daily wages Rs 358,318.

21. Gunduk Embankment.—The embankment work has been nearly completed, and it has been raised above high flood-level throughout the entire length; so that there is little but dressing to be done. Two miles of the High Level Canal have been completed, and work has been started from the 1st to the 8th, the 24th to 29th, and 46th to 48th miles; seven miles of temporary road have been made, and the Sarun Canal begun.

22. Soane Canal.—Work is progressing favourably, but the number of labourers has decreased, owing to the completion of the anicut works in Patna, and the rain in Arrah. About 29 lakhs of cubic feet of earthwork have been excavated during the fortnight in the main western canal in the Karumnassa division.

23. Northern Bengal Railway.—The total amount of earthwork up to date is 57,658,000 cubic feet, equal to 169 miles of four feet bank, of which 9,284,300 have been thrown up during the fortnight. This is the largest return yet sent in, and besides this 89 miles of feeder roads have been completed.

24. The following shows the numbers in receipt of charitable relief according to the latest statement:—Number of centres 11,443. Number on charitable relief this fortnight 401,962. Last fortnight 329,000.

These returns show a considerable increase over those of the last fortnight in almost every district except Sarun, Monghyr, Purneah, and Rajshahye. In the last district the decrease is more nominal than real, as those doing light labour on roads have this fortnight been entered among the labourers on relief works, instead of among the recipients of charitable relief, as was the case in the former return. The great increase in Bhagulpore seems, from the Collector's report, to have been caused by a too indiscriminate grant of village relief tickets; but the lists are being carefully scrutinised, and the numbers will probably be considerably reduced. In Purneah the figures are not free from doubt, and their accuracy will be inquired into. Enquiry is being made as to the large numbers returned for Pubna.

25. We can hardly flatter ourselves that we have yet reached the greatest numbers of persons to be relieved under this heading; for doubtless as relief works become deserted, owing to the demand for field-labour, there will be considerable numbers of old men and women and young children who now earn a scanty subsistence from doing nominal work on relief works, who will be driven to accept charity owing to their incapacity for gaining a living by labour paid at its market value, and these persons must continue to draw sustenance from the charitable funds till the incoming harvest enables their relatives to give them the same assistance as heretofore.

CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The Chinese appear to be assisting the Japanese in the invasion of Formosa. Two engagements have already taken place and blood has been shed on both sides. By the latest advices the Japanese had destroyed a native village, with very trifling loss.—The Wusung bar question is, it is said, being agitated at Peking by the foreign ministers. The Viceroy of the Two Keang has presented a memorial adverse to the scheme.—A disturbance has happened at Chefoo owing to the imposition of extra duties [illegible].—It is said that the preliminaries of the Peruvian Treaty with China have been arranged and that it will shortly be signed.—An application by the British and French Ministers for an audience of the Emperor on Chinese New Year's day was, it is said, refused.—The new Russian Minister had an audience on the 20th ult.—Two most important works have been issued from the Customs press, viz. the Port Catalogues of the Chinese collection forwarded to the Vienna exhibition, and the Trade Statistics of the open ports for the last ten years.—The Hankow tea market [illegible] the 19th ult., at an advance of [illegible]'s figures. The Agamemnon, the first vessel [illegible] aground in the Yangtze and was still fast by latest advices.—The Chimi rioters (Shantung) have at last been arrested and are being tried.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO.

The price of rice at Canton has greatly risen owing to the rains, and the silk season is said to have been a poor one, the mulberry leaf crop having [illegible] a partial failure.—A portion of the western gate wall at Canton has given way in consequence of the rains.—The adoption of steam machinery for silk reeling is exciting some hostility.—No contribution to the Bengal famine fund has been forwarded from Hongkong.—The Queen's birthday was ignored in a manner which has led to some criticism upon the military authorities.—Great improvements have been made at the Gap leading to Happy Valley.—An inquest has been held on the body of Mr. H. J. Hare, who died of brain disease on the 3rd instant, after an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide on the 19th ult.—Trades union intimidation is spreading amongst the native craftsmen.—An investigation as to the theft of a portion of telegraphic cable is going on at Macao. The evidence tends to implicate native officials.

(*North China Herald*, May 30.)

H. M. S. Cadmus left Shanghai on Wednesday the 27th May for Nagasaki, en route for Yokohama and thence for England. We shall therefore not see her again in Shanghai. The Cadmus has been so much on [illegible] made themselves so generally popular, that she will be missed as an old friend.

News has reached Hongkong that the German barque Hydra, which left there on the 17th March for Newchwang, was lost on April 2, during thick weather, on the coral reef off Coumi, (S. W. coast of Formosa) some miles to the eastward of the Vele Rete Rocks, and eastward of the spot where the German barque Chance was lost. Three men put off in the ship's only boat, with a rope to fasten to a rock, but the boat was smashed and the rope broken and the crew were only saved by being drawn through the surf by natives. The latter kept them till 1st May, and then sent them on to Kelung, whence the customs sent them to Tamsui, at which place they got passages in the Norwegian steamer Auguste Leffler for Hongkong.

We hear that the French Consul-General has asked certain Consuls to prosecute individuals claiming their protection for shooting Chinese during the night of the riot.—We presume the reply will be that, if specific charges are brought against any one they will be investigated before the courts in the usual form. It is well that the matter should be investigated; for though some shots fired during the heat of the riot were no doubt justifiable, there seems equally little doubt that others were fired recklessly after danger was over, and were blameable.—Of course Mr. Godeaux will institute, in his own court, similar proceedings in the case of his own nationals, to those which he has asked his colleagues to take.

It is said that H. M.'s Minister has expressed himself in favour of the liability of the Chinese to fully indemnify foreigners for all loss and damage occurring through the riots on the French Concession; and that claims, of a direct and indirect nature, to the extent of about Tls. 10,000, have been sent in by British subjects. This, however, does not cover the whole of the British interests involved.

(*Straits Times.*)

His Excellency the Governor is still absent on his visit to Penang, and intends remaining there until about the 25th instant, when he will leave on his return to Singapore. We are glad to learn that H. E. has received a telegram at Penang from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, generally approving of his policy in the Malay Peninsula and consenting to the appointment of Residents at Perak and Laroot. This action indicates that the Home authorities are at last convinced of the necessity of looking after British interests in this part of the world, and awakening to a sense of our duty towards the native states in our immediate vicinity whose real interests, identical with [illegible] allowed to suffer through [illegible] of the local and Home Governments in matters vitally affecting not merely the interests of British subjects, but the prosperity of our colony and the honour and prestige of the nation.

The latest news received from Acheen is not favourable to the Dutch, who have found it necessary to despatch reinforcements to the troops left in the Kraton. The Achinese, taking advantage of the withdrawal of the bulk of the forces, had gathered in considerable numbers in the neighbourhood of the fortification, and the garrison may be said to be closely confined to their own works. The Achinese endeavoured to cut off communication with the sea, and probably but for the fear of Dutch reprisals by the people in the immediate neighbourhood, who therefore maintained a friendly attitude, it is likely the attempt would have been seconded by them, with a better chance of success. The health of the garrison was most unsatisfactory, many of the soldiers suffering from fever. The weather was, however, said to be favourable, and afforded excellent opportunities for landing reinforcements if sent speedily.

Three steamers with the new season's teas from Hankow have passed through the Straits. The first was the Agamemnon, of the Ocean line, which passed Woosung on the afternoon of the 30th May, arrived here on the evening of the 8th, and left at daylight on the 9th. The second was the Glenartney, of the Glen line, which passed Woosung on the morning of the 31st May, arrived here early on the morning of the [illegible] instant, and sailed at noon the same day. The third was the Glenfalloch, of the same line, which arrived here on the morning of the 11th instant, and sailed the same day at 3 p. m. In addition to these, the Cawdor Castle, from Hankow, is also now hourly expected. The Nizam, the present mail steamer, has also on board teas laden at Shanghai, and will drop her mails at Suez and proceed on direct to London with all haste as an extra steamer without stopping at Malta or Gibraltar.

We regret to learn of the loss of the French barque Charles Auguste, Capt. Cogrel, which struck on a [illegible] in Torres Straits on the 26th April, on a voyage from Newcastle, N. S. W., to Singapore with coals. The captain and eight of the crew arrived safely in a boat at Somerset, Northern Australia, and were brought on to this port by the E. & A. mail steamer Jeddah. The chief officer with eight more of the crew left in the second boat, and sailed out of sight ahead on the [illegible] night after leaving the ship; they were not [illegible] during the three weeks the captain remained at Somerset, but may, however, have made for another part of the Australian coast, or have been picked up by some vessel on their way.

The U. S. surveying vessel Tuscarora [illegible] been engaged in taking soundings for the purpose of determining the nature of the sea bottom of [illegible] Pacific in view of a new telegraphic cable being laid to connect Japan with America.—*Japan Mail*, May

An unusually severe fire occurred at [illegible] oto on the 10th inst. A very large number of houses—the official report fixes the number at sixteen hundred—was destroyed and some lives were lost. It is stated that so extensive a conflagration has not been known for the last thirty years.

It is reported that the Japanese Expedition has reached Formosa, and that the forces have been already landed. Assuming the accuracy of this intelligence, it may be presumed that the acquiescence of the China Government has been obtained.

It is understood that the Government has endorsed—to use the convenient phraseology of our cousins—the Formosan Expedition, and news has reached us of the arrival of some of the vessels at [illegible], where an application to the Chinese authorities procured them supplies of coal and water. That the Government was right in taking this course is clear enough; indeed, it was the only one open to it. The question of discipline must be postponed until later, and it would be utterly idle for a foreigner to speculate how it will be arranged. We presume the troops will be thrown upon the Island of Formosa, and that the vessels which carried them thither, after landing the provisions and military stores, will leave the coast, which is far too open to permit of their remaining during the south-west monsoon. The work of punishing the offending aboriginal tribes will then begin, and it will be curious to know how it will be carried on, and in what light the Chinese will regard it. That they will permit a permanent occupation of any part of the island is in the highest degree improbable; but they may trust to time and fever as natural allies before taking overt action, even should the Japanese manifest any disposition or desire to remain, which may be doubted if the objections of China to such a course are plainly stated. The return of Okuma is anxiously looked for. Okubo returned last Friday.

The *Foochow Herald* writes:—The Japanese invasion of Formosa is an accomplished fact. About 5,000 men, with a strong force of artillery, were landed on the 13th instant at a place about 60 miles south of Takao. The disembarkation was not opposed by the Chinese troops—a significant circumstance, when we consider that the invasion is in itself a breach of international law—no declaration of war with the Chinese Empire having been proclaimed by the Japanese Government. However, our sympathies are with the Japanese, to whom we wish every success, believing as we do that any Government would be preferable to the effete and corrupt administration through whose wilfulness and rapacity one of the most fertile islands on the earth has long been, and still is, virtually a *terra incognita*.

The *Overland China Mail* says:—Reinforcements for the Formosa expedition are being actively sent forward. The Japan papers assert that it is the intention of the Government to annex and colonise that part of Formosa not immediately under Chinese jurisdiction. But little reliable intelligence is, however to hand.—A new Japanese minister to China has left for Peking.—The revenue of Japan for last year was 88,867,636 yen and the expenditure for the same period 62,169,344 yen. The indebted of Japan to foreign countries is stated to be 17,085,592 yen. [The yen equals a dollar]—A severe conflagration has taken place at [illegible] thirteen hundred have also been burned at Hamamatzu—The railway fares between Yedo and Yokohama have been reduced.—A book has been published against Christianity, so violent and blasphemous that even the Japanese say it defeats its own ends.—The Kobe-Osaka railway was successfully opened on the 11th ulto—The rumoured enmity between Japan and Corea is authoritatively contradicted.

EUROPEAN EXTRACTS.

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMY.

HOUSE OF LORDS—JUNE 1.

Lord Sandhurst, in rising to move for certain returns connecting with recruiting in the Army and the state of the Army Reserves and the Militia, said his first object was to elicit the information which those returns would contain, and his second was to raise a discussion on the important subject of supplying the Army with men. It was not his wish to reflect either on the late Government or the Ministry now in office. He introduced the question because there were certain considerations in connexion with the supply of our Army with men which could not fail to cause apprehension, he would not say alarm, in the mind of every person who had to deal with the military establishments of this country. What was the case? We had committed ourselves to the short service system. In what shape did recruits now reach our Army? At an age so youthful that they could not be called men. This was the case with a large number of them. They were not able to do duty as soldiers. It required two years to give them the substance of soldiers, and during those two years they were receiving pay from the State. In the days of the unlimited system, we could afford to have very young men, who were hardly capable of performing duty in the ranks, because their number was very small. It was, however, very different thing to have such recruits enter the army when enlistment was for 21 years from what it was to have them now, when enlistment was only for six years. The effect in the latter case was that we had one-third, if not one-half, of our ranks made up of youths who were not fit for service. (Hear, hear.) Since his return home from India and his lot had been cast in the executive administration of the army, the danger to which the country was exposed from this state of things had constantly presented itself to him in a concrete form, and he thought an endeavour ought to be made to direct the attention of the country to the fact that while it believed it rested on a system which had a solid basis, that system was weak in the point which he had just brought under the notice of their lordships. He now came to The Reserves. By the Act of 1867, which was called the Army Reserve Act, power was given to the War Office to enforce the attendance for training of the fourth class and the second class of Reserves; but by the Act of 1870 that power was abandoned. The 19th section of the latter Act provided that the Secretary of State might from time to time make regulations for the training of persons serving in these Reserves. As he read the clause, it did not contain a legislative direction, but conferred a discretionary authority on the Secretary of State, and there was the further limitation that he should interfere as little as possible with the ordinary pursuits of the men comprising those Reserves. Well, now what had been the working of that clause? He could speak positively as to how it had worked in Ireland. Last year 460 of those men were summoned to take part in the manœuvres on the Curragh. Only fifty or one-ninth of the whole, responded to the invitation. (Hear, hear.) He did not know what had been the case in England, but, judging from the figures he had just stated, he did not think the provision in the Act of 1870 was sufficient to give real substance and solidity to the Army Reserve. He now came to the Militia Reserve, created by the Act of 1867. He believed the provision with respect to it was excellent, and answered its purpose as well as possible, because it obliged the men to attend. There was no delusion. It obliged the men to obey military order, and the consequence was a substantial Militia Reserve. (Hear, hear.) In reference to the short-service system he wished to say that he thought there were some misapprehension and some misunderstanding with respect to its working in India. Were the lives of men as secure there as they are in this country—if the only thing to be considered in regard to India were distance, and climate there were as healthy as it is here—then there might be an objection to the short-service system for India. But under the existing conditions of climate, so far from short service being prejudicial to the army in India, it was quite the contrary. There was a considerable mortality there in every regiment each year. Within the last few years

facilities for
to the officer
ncy also. He
regiment in which
changed, whether
years, which show
service there was
compared with what
system. (Hear, hear.) But when we
back to the history of the Army during
seven years, we must see great changes
institution. The Act of 1867 created an Army
and a Militia Reserve. The Act of 1869 gave
to place the Militia, when in training, under the
of a general officer, and also to attach officers
Regular forces to Militia regiments; and it abo-
property qualification for Militia officers. The
1870 shortened the time of active service in the
Army. Twelve years was to be the term of
; but a portion of that term might be spent in the
Army itself, and the residue in the first class of the
Reserve force, established by the Act of 1867. Next
the Act of 1871, the debates on which your
no doubt remember. The most important part
that Act was the portion which transferred to the
Crown the jurisdiction formerly exercised by the Lieu-
tenants of Counties in respect of the Auxiliary forces.

Then came the Bill of 1872, which, though little more than a money Bill, was important as showing the policy of the Government, and also as showing the intention of Parliament in respect to the executive development of the Army Regulation Act of 1871. The policy of the late Government, as he understood it, was to produce a reciprocation of good offices—if he might use the expression—between the Militia and the Line, with the view that this should produce greater concord between the two services, and thus add to the safety of the national defences. He believed that by the adoption of that policy the late Government grasped the right principle, but there had not yet been time for the thorough development of that principal. (Hear.) He thought, however, we must go further and adopt other measures if we would get rid of those apprehensions which must at present force themselves on our minds. What did we still do in recruiting? Why pursue the same system as we had in operation 100 years ago, but which long ago had been given up by every other civilized country. We looked out for the waifs and strays of the community as the material wherewith to keep up the strength of the English Army. In his opinion, we ought to look to the Militia as the source from which to draw our recruits for the Army, and that [illegible] should be an organized system of supplying the Militia with recruits, and that we [illegible] the Militia to supply us with such [illegible] the Army as we required to keep up the strength of our Regular forces. The Militia did not find at all the same difficulty in obtaining recruits as the Army experienced. Within the last three years the number of recruits obtained in open market for the Line was 3,206. In the same period the number obtained for the Militia was 27,184. During these three years the Militia had given the Line 2,300. The volunteering from the Militia to the Line was now fitful, and as even it gave such a considerable drought of men to the Army, he was led to believe that the introduction of a well-devised system of volunteering would be attended with very satisfactory results. It might be carried out in various ways. There was, first, the plan of bounties to such volunteers. Next we ought to consider seriously the question whether a difference ought not to be made between the pay to militiamen and that to soldiers. In all other trades and callings, a difference was made between unskilled labourers and skilled artisans, and these two classes were paid different rates of wages; but we found the same wages paid to the untrained militiaman and the skilled soldier. Difference of pay to the privates prevailed in different branches of the Army, and he suggested to the Government that the question whether this principle should not be acted on in respect to the pay of the Militia and the pay of men in the Line was one well worthy of consideration in connexion with the question of supplying the [illegible] service from the former. Again under the present system we had the recruiting sergeant for the Militia and the recruiting sergeant for the Army competing for the same raw material; and a further evil of the system was that it fostered, if it had not actually created, crimes of desertion and of fraudulent enlistments after desertions. He would further suggest that it would be expedient to have the Brigade Depots [illegible] rather than Line institutions [illegible] this would follow the adoption of the system which he recommended—that of recruiting for the Militia only, and feeding our Army by volunteers from the Militia. He admitted that this point would require mature consideration, but he would suggest for the consideration of the Government whether the Brigade Depots should not become institutions for recruiting and training the Militia. Another point was whether education machinery should not be put in motion to [illegible] recruits. He had heard that the training ships sent a great many of the very best [illegible] into the Royal and Mercantile Navies. Why should not the educational principle be tried in the case of lads destined for the Army? He hoped he had been guilty of no irregularity in making these suggestions, but he had been led to do so in consequence of the belief that the subject which he had ventured to bring under their lordships' notice was one of great importance. (Hear, hear.) The noble lord concluded by moving for return of orders issued in 1874 having respect to the regulations for recruiting the Army; also, return of any instructions or orders which may have been issued in the year 1873 for calling out the Army Reserve; also, return of the numbers who answered to such call of such orders or instructions when issued; also return showing the number of absentees in the several Militia Regiments of Great Britain and Ireland at the training of 1873, the strength of each regiment in this respect to be separately stated.

The Earl of Pembroke said that in these times of
progress an hundred years might seem to have
very long time for anything to last (a laugh)
that time at least, according to the noble and
lord, our present system of recruiting had been
tion; but as the present Government had been so
time in office they might be excused if they said
not prepared with any scheme to supersede that.
The subject of supplying the Army with men was
important one, and the War Department were
ing all the facts they thought likely to
coming to a sound conclusion on the
present, therefore, the Government
themselves to the acceptance of any
He hoped, however, that the noble
would allow him to make a suggestive
or two of the points in the speech which he
ed to their lordships. The noble and gallant
that at present there were recruiting sergeants
the Army and recruiting sergeants from
competing for the same class. We
able to get recruits from any other
system was not one of compulsory
though the recruiting sergeants from
drew their recruits from the same class
from a different sub-division of that
Militia men were obtained who had
ment and who never would go into the
the Army men were got who had no
ment and could not live on what was
man. (Hear, hear.) As to recruiting
entirely from the Militia, that gave rise
question if a bounty were given to volun
Militia, and further, it appeared to him
such a system, while the Army was much
Militia might be unduly increased
objection to the returns moved for by
gallant lord. (Hear, hear.)

Viscount Cardwell.—Your lordships
expect me to say a few words after the
ences made to the late Government in the
able speech of the noble and gallant
noble earl allowed to commence by
House and expressing the War De
a long career which will be
bers. (Hear, hear.) Well, now, my
I have no occasion to differ
lord in any of the principles
he spoke in terms of general
policy of the late Government.
proposal I quite sympathize
my utmost—as the illustrious
knows—to promote the
the Militia and the Line. ("Hear,"
Cambridge.) But, my lords, in the
what would do; it is what
adminis a voluntary system
not mis resenting the feeling of
lord wh I say that he is in
which on the Continent—
I think, however, that the time is
system will commend itself to the
sanctioned your lordship's
As far as would do so by volun
ceeded in the ection advocated
lant lord. can only get a
to proceed ly in such matt
into them with itary ardour.
that by recruit from the Mili
for the Army. hope tha
be realized. In 1871,
who passed from Militia
and in the year 18 it was
make them pass from
not wish to do it. Militia
the noble and gallant
a recruiting medium for the
what it is now—a substantial
ble force for the country in
I should like to know how
enter the Militia if they were
ing medium for the Army
would appear to me—to
ing the goose which laid the
Within the limits we have
recruiting the Army, but
principle to the extent of
as an actual defensive
speaks of the large numb
Militia within the last 12
body in comparison who
Army, does he not
offered? It was because
domestic force, and for
in agricultural and dom
number of recruits join
compel men to join it;
ments to do so; and
have produced their
lord has drawn a pict
venture to think is
abroad. The
has been laid
appear from
obtaining the
contrary, the Army
recruits obtained
same number as
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The quality of
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